



## FORT LAUDERDALE POLICE DEPARTMENT NEWS RELEASE

Detective Ali Adamson | Office of the Chief | 954-828-6433 | [aadamson@fortlauderdale.gov](mailto:aadamson@fortlauderdale.gov)

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### FATAL TRAFFIC CRASH

The Fort Lauderdale Police Department is investigating the fatal traffic crash that occurred before the start of the Stonewall Pride Parade on Saturday, June 19, 2021. The incident occurred in 1700 block of Northeast 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue, in the City of Fort Lauderdale.

Preliminary investigation into this incident has revealed that a 2011 white Dodge Ram was stopped in the staging area, awaiting the start of the parade in the 1600 block of Northeast 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue. The driver of the vehicle, a 77 year-old male, was a participant who had ailments preventing him from walking the duration of the parade and was selected to drive as the lead vehicle.

As the vehicle began to move forward in anticipation for the start of the parade, the vehicle accelerated unexpectedly, striking two pedestrians. After striking the pedestrians, the driver continued across all lanes of traffic, ultimately crashing into the fence of a business on the west side of the street. The driver remained on scene and has been cooperative with investigators for the duration of the investigation. A DUI investigation of the driver was conducted on scene and showed no signs of impairment.

The driver and both pedestrians are members of the Fort Lauderdale Gay Men's Chorus. The pedestrians, two adult males, were transported to Broward Health Medical Center by Fort Lauderdale Fire Rescue with serious injuries. Shortly thereafter, the first pedestrian was pronounced deceased. The deceased male's identity is not being released pending next of kin notification. The second pedestrian struck remains at Broward Health Medical Center and is expected to survive.

While no arrests have been made, the Fort Lauderdale Police Department continues to investigate this incident and will not be releasing the names of the involved parties due to the status of the investigation. The Fort Lauderdale Police Department asks anyone who may have witnessed this incident, who has not already spoken to investigators, to contact Traffic Homicide Investigator Paul Williams at (954) 828-5755.

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